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WORK GRANTS



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THE USE OF WORK GRANTS

This manual is intended to help the county supervisor plan work programs for grant families. Suggestions, pictures, plans and specifications for simple constructions are included.

Wherever possible, every grant made by the Farm Security Administration must be accompanied by a work agreement. The work agreements may vary according to what the family needs to do most around the farm or home to improve its living. Each individual case will call for a different kind of work agreement. The outline of work suggestions contained in this booklet is intended merely as a point of departure for the county supervisor; many additional ideas undoubtedly will grow out of the study of each family's situation.

A work grant is relief-with-a-future. The farm family on ordinary relief usually has neither the incentive nor the means to do constructive work around the farm or home. Relief checks are spent for immediate necessities and the family is usually left no better off.

In return for an FSA grant, however, families must agree to follow practices which will enable them to live off the land as much as possible. In this way, they can improve their diet through home-grown produce and canning, their home through minor repairs, and their farm-land through better soil practices.

A work grant, therefore, is made for rehabilitation, and not for relief. The supervisor who makes the wisest use of work grant agreements, may thus make the best record for rehabilitation.

The Farm Security Administration stands on a strong base, built on tenure improvement, debt adjustment, loans for rehabilitation, loans for purchase of farms in counties where tenancy is high, formation of cooperatives to conserve the income of the farmers, education through supervision, creation of camps for migratory labor, operation of homesteads for families who have left submarginal lands, work program grants, group health associations. Not the least of these is the grant, which not only brings relief to hard-pressed families, but also can become one of our strongest tools for rehabilitation through education and stimulus toward higher standards.

S P E C I F I C S U G G E S T I O N S F O R W O R K G R A N T A G R E E M E N T S

Many supervisors will no doubt be able to elaborate on the following suggestions from their own experience and from the particular needs of the area in which they work.

All grants should contribute to family well-being and self-sufficiency; but for easy reference the outline of suggestions has been placed under separate headings, such as The Family, The Home, The Land, Sanitary Facilities, Safety and the like. Some of the suggestions, including such as canning and raising of subsistence poultry, fall under farm and home plans, but these are mentioned for those families who are not standard clients and may not have a farm and home plan.

FOR THE FAMILY

Food Preservation

1. Vary and improve diet through producing, canning, and storing vegetables.
2. If possible, plant a year-round garden.
3. If possible, exchange work for fruit jars.

Clothing

1. Repair and alter family clothing.
2. Make new clothing.
3. Wash or dryclean all family clothing.

Bedding

1. Take mattresses apart and wash.
2. Re-cover mattresses.
3. Make new mattresses and protective coverings.
4. Make new bedding — comforters and quilts.
5. Re-cover comforters and quilts.
6. Wash and store blankets in spring.

Miscellaneous

1. Make laundry soap from waste fats.
2. Get rid of household pests.

FOR THE HOME

Screens

1. Screen all windows and doors.
2. Make frames for screens.
3. Repair or patch holes in old screens.
4. Repair screen doors, replace with new screen, straighten or rehang doors.

Storage Space

1. Build cellar.
2. Build storage room in yard.
3. Put shelves in storage room or kitchen.
4. Build clothes closet or clothes racks.

Repairs

1. Repair roof with riving boards, fastening shingles, paper or sheet metal.
2. Repair chimney and flues by chinking or pointing up.
3. Sidewalls — inside: paper, paint, tint or whitewash, cover with paper or cardboard, or plaster with mud; outside: strip or tighten siding, paint.
4. Floors — knock floor boards together, strip or plug holes, replace worn boards, or lay new floors, repair dirt floors with mud.
5. Porch — repair roof or flooring.
6. Steps — repair or build steps.
7. Doors and windows — tighten and straighten framing, weather-strip doors, put glass panel in door, replace broken glass in windows.
8. Increase washing space or build additional room.
9. Underpin house.

Home furnishings

1. Build simple furniture, such as benches, tables, chairs, clothes poles, shelves and bed-spring platforms.
2. Make scatter-rugs, chair bottoms, et cetera.
3. Repair old furniture.

A Typical Work Grant Case

Three years ago Jim Jones, his wife, three daughters and a son were crowded into a two-room house. Mr. Jones owned 15 acres of land, from which he received no income, and a plow, a cultivator, one hog and 18 chickens. His total assets — about \$456 -- were cancelled by liabilities amounting to \$460, of which \$175 was owing to doctors, \$40 to a hospital and \$5 in taxes.

For May, June, and July 1937, Mr. Jones received a total grant of \$80 and carried out the following work agreement:

1. Built a poultry house.
2. Cleared two acres of land.
3. Planted an adequate garden.
4. Capped the well with rocks.
5. Planted 10 acres in corn, beans, and cane.
6. Filled 400 containers of vegetables and fruits.
7. Repaired cellar.
8. Built a sanitary toilet.

In August and September, the family received \$40 and agreed to:

1. Make daughters' school clothes.
2. Can 200 more quarts of food.
3. Repair three quilts.
4. Build clothes closets.
5. Build new room at no cash expense by working for the lumber.
6. Build yard fence and clean premises.

By December the house had been insulated and plastered. Three more acres had been cleared, and two chairs had been built.

The next year, 1938, the Jones family received \$290 in grant money, of which \$23 a month was spent on family living expenses. The work agreements were fulfilled according to the high standard already set by the family.

In 1939, the family averaged \$15 a month from the sale of eggs and dairy products. Mr. Jones, cooperating with the Extension Service Poultry Record program, drew second place with his chickens. A combined grant and loan for \$250, of which \$100 was to be repaid, supplemented his income.

For 1940, the family's balance sheet shows:

<u>Assets</u>		<u>Liabilities</u>	
Land improvements	\$460	FSA note	\$100
1 plow and 1 cultivator	12	Open accounts	57
1 cow and 1 calf	80	Old doctor bills	175
1 horse	50	Old hospital bill	40
75 poultry	75	Owing on 1 cow	55
1 wagon cart	40	Owing on 1 horse	15
Feed on hand	4		
Canned fruits and vegetables	45		
Household goods	75		
	<u>\$831</u>		<u>\$442</u>

Mr. Jones is now participating in the medical care program, which will insure him against further indebtedness due to sickness. He is expected to be self-supporting at the end of the year.

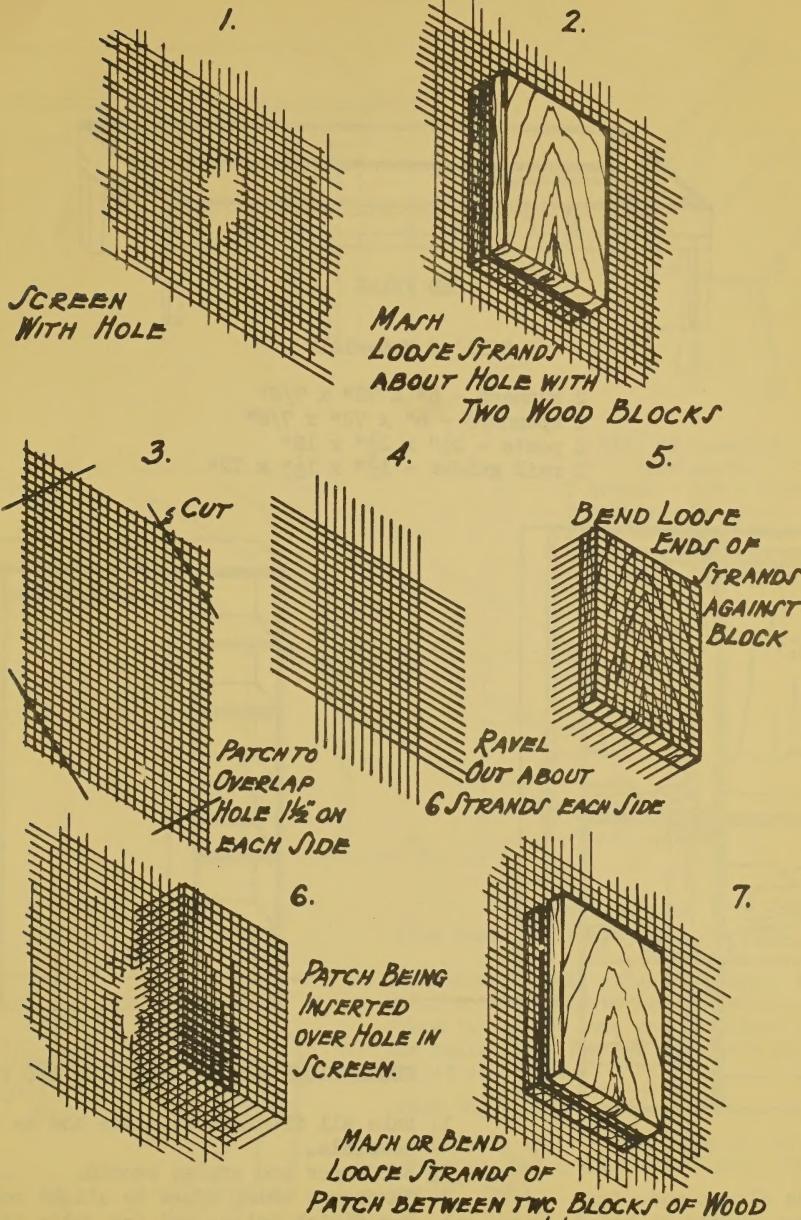


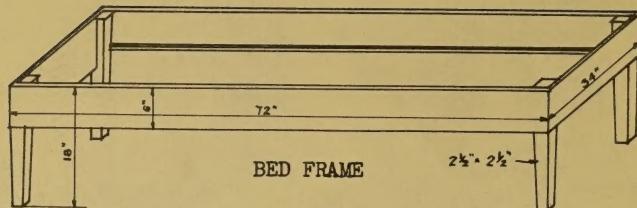
First step in a live-at-home program is a well-stocked pantry supplied by a garden and canning.

The family's clothing can be materially increased through sewing; their home made more comfortable and attractive through weaving of blankets, rugs, curtains and the like.



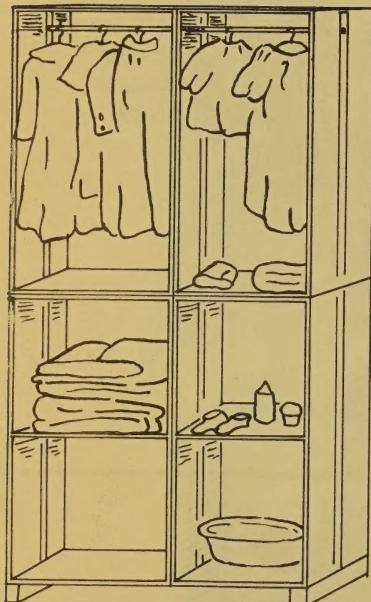
REPAIR OF WIRE SCREENING



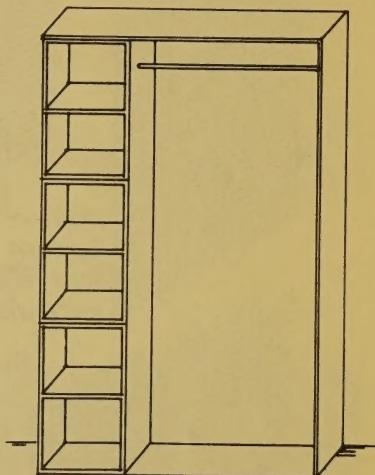


BILL OF MATERIALS

- 2 runners - 6" x 72" x 7/8"
- 2 spanners - 6" x 72" x 7/8"
- 4 posts - 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 2 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 18"
- 2 rail guides - 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 1 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 72"

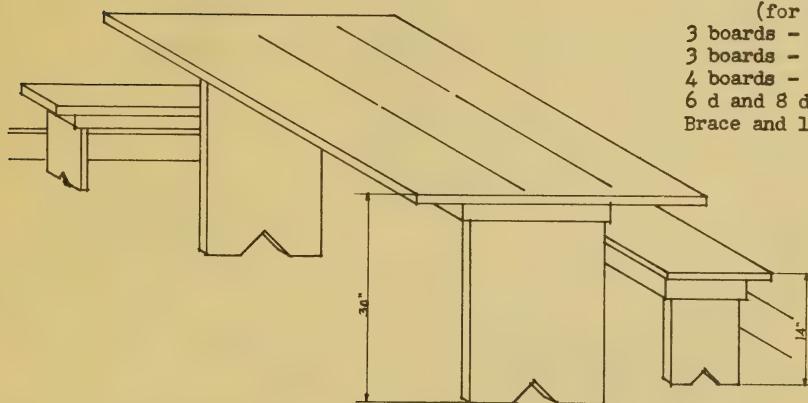
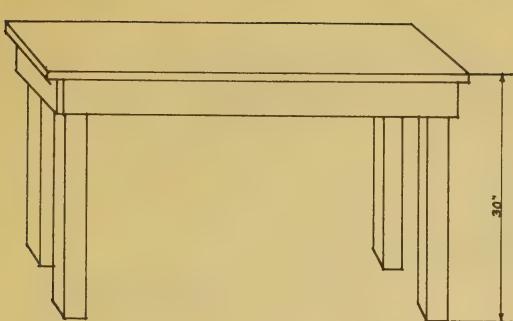


Clothes closet made from 3 orange crates, a board for the top and a pole for hanging.



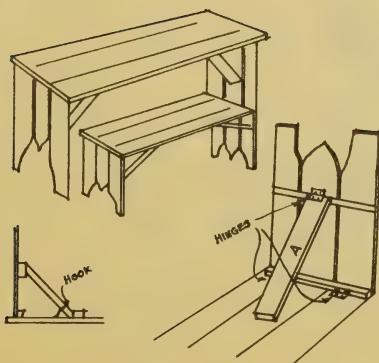
SUGGESTIONS FOR CONSTRUCTION AND FINISH

1. Make all fittings as close and as neatly as possible.
2. Sandpaper end grains smooth.
3. Sandpaper sharp edges to slight round.
4. Use finish nails, set and putty them.
5. If painted, use following color suggestion:
White for inside surfaces, dark blue for blue, or variegated walls, dark brown for tan or yellow walls.



**Bill of Materials
(for above)**

3 boards - 10" x 6' 0"
3 boards - 3 $\frac{1}{2}$ " x 28"
4 boards - 2" x 4" x 36"
6 d and 8 d finishing nails
Brace and 1/3" bit



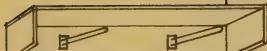
**Bill of Materials
(for table and bench shown at left)**

Inch-thick boards, except for bench tops, which are 2" thick to support weight. Piece "A" is 20" long and is hinged to the table leg. The two sides are also hinged as shown.

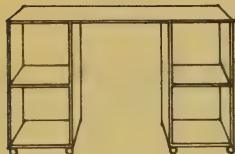
Table top is 60" x 30".

The benches are the same type of construction, but are only 50" long, 14" wide, and 16" high.

When folded, the pieces "A" occupy the space provided by the shortness of the center number in the end sections.

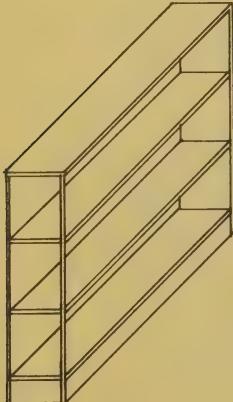


A shelf 15 inches deep fits into narrow space.

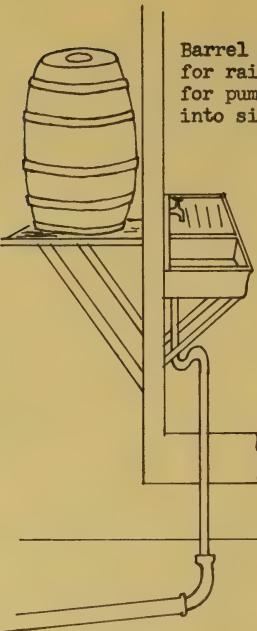


Orange Crate Dressing Table.

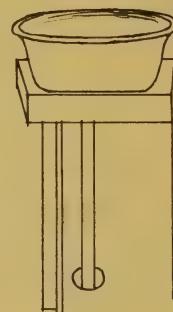
Paint top, curtain and hang mirror. Make seat of nail keg.



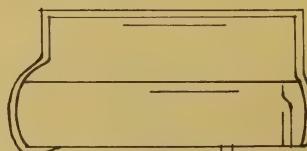
Shelves can be spaced to suit needs.



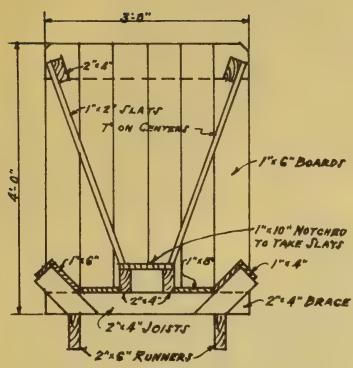
Barrel may be used for rain water or for pumping water into sink.



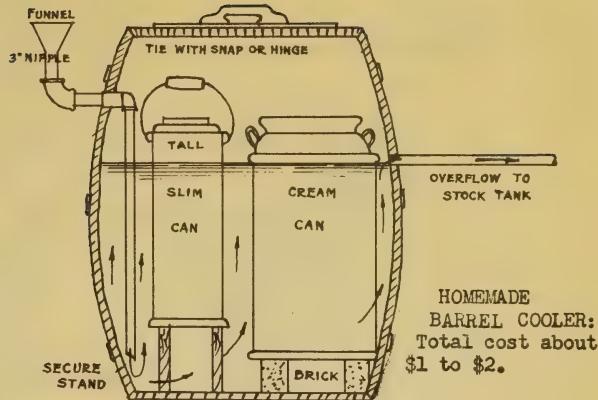
A sink embedded in cement with drain pipe connection.



A sink made from an old automobile tank, which is split down the middle. One side of the tank is nailed up against the wall. The rounded part is retained and the edge is rolled slightly outward.



End View
(Hog Alfalfa Rack)

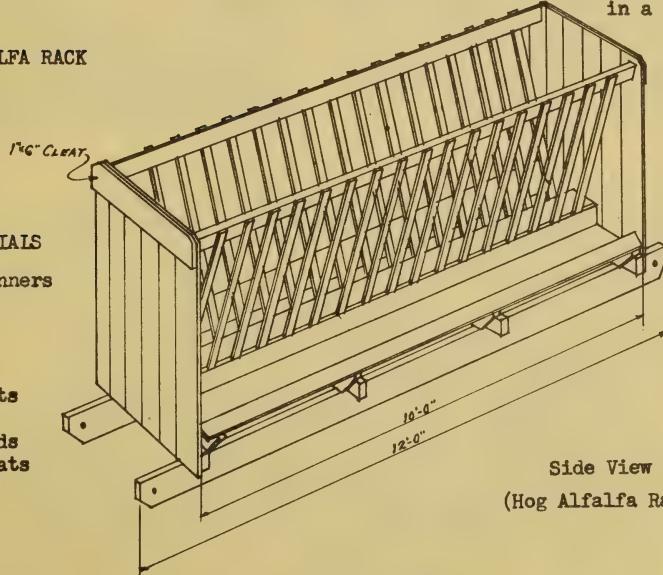


HOMEMADE
BARREL COOLER:
Total cost about
\$1 to \$2.

The Dairy Department of the Oklahoma A. & M. College recommends this cheap, homemade cooler for keeping perishable foods. It holds a lower temperature than iceless refrigerators cooled by evaporation.

Directions: Water-tight barrel or box with close-fitting lid, 3/4" pipes. Cool water flowing in at bottom pushes out warm water through overflow. If windmill pump is used, connect inlet pipe directly to pump. Place cooler in a shaded place.

HOG ALFALFA RACK



Side View
(Hog Alfalfa Rack)

BILL OF MATERIALS

- 2-2"x6"-12' runners
- 6-2"x4"-10'
- 1-1"x10"-10'
- 2-1"x8"-10'
- 2-1"x6"-10'
- 1-1"x6"-6 cleats
- 2-1"x4"-10'
- 4-1"x6"-12' ends
- 12-1"x2"-10' slats

Prepared from Data
submitted by
DIV. OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY, B.A.I.

FOR THE LAND

Roads

1. Fill chuck holes.
2. Repair culverts or bridges.

Crop land

1. List land not already listed.
2. Replant alfalfa.
3. Fertilize land.
4. Clean ditches.
5. Dig roots from land.
6. Pull and remove stumps.
7. Remove loose rock.
8. Burn weeds along fence line.
9. Repair terraces.
10. Build dams in arroyos
11. Terrace farm.
12. Repair fence -- tighten or add wires -- replace old posts (posts cut from own pasture).

Garden

1. Fertilize and plow garden plot to get ready for spring planting.
2. Make hot beds and frame gardens.
3. Plant sufficient crops for subsistence and canning.
4. Build home-made irrigation system for gardens, if necessary.
5. Fence garden.

Orchard and vineyard

1. Prune trees and grapevines.
2. Replace old trees and vines with young ones.
3. Transplant berries.
4. Set out fruit trees.

Pasture

1. Clean underbrush
2. Sow grass seed.
3. Set sod.
4. Stop gullies -- contour furrowing.
5. Mow at least twice a year.
6. Repair fences and water gaps.
7. Deaden timber with landlord's consent.
8. Cut out dead trees.
9. Remove posts with landlord's consent.

This family earned a work grant by building an overhead storage tank for \$2.00 to irrigate their garden. A home supervisor makes a conduit out of old oil cans over which the farmer spades dirt.



Fields

1. Stop gullies.
2. Strip crop or plant along contours.
3. Build or repair terraces.
4. Reset or rebuild fences.
5. Clean out fence row.
6. Pick up stones.
7. Cut sprouts.
8. Remove stumps.

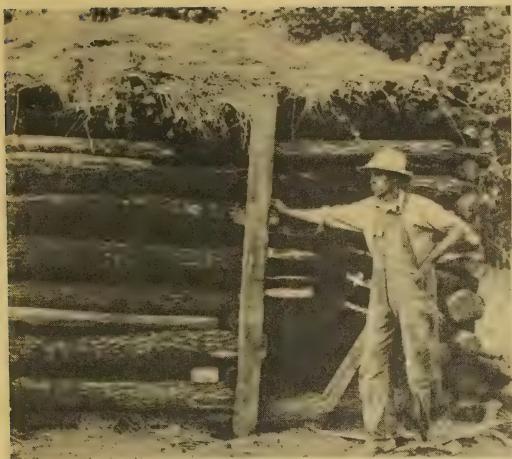
FOR THE FARM YARD AND BUILDINGS

Yard

1. Fill in holes or depressions with earth, ditch for rain water removal.
2. Plant grass or cut weeds.
3. Care of trees — prune, spray fruit trees.
4. Plant shrubs or trees around the home.
5. Remove dead trees.
6. Pile stove wood.
7. Build walks — use flat stones, flat wood blocks, bricks, old lumber, etc.
8. Fence yard, clean yard and premises.

Barn, lot and outbuildings

1. Clean barn lot, stable, or corral.
2. Take apart discarded implements — store or sell, dispose of trash and junk.
3. Make compost piles.
4. Spade up ground around poultry house and yard.
5. Fill in holes with earth to prevent pools of standing water.
6. Clean poultry and brooder houses and disinfect regularly.
7. Build and repair poultry, brooder, and hog houses.
8. Construct additional barn space when material is supplied.
9. Build sheds to protect farm equipment.
10. Repair machinery, wagons, harness, etc.
11. Install cattleguards.
12. Dig trench silo.
13. Tear down old unused buildings, upon consent of landlord, salvage and pile lumber for future repair work.
14. Relocate barn lot to protect well.



A barn made of materials at hand.



Strong fencing for a barn lot.



A small dam can easily be made of board and tumbleweed.

FOR SANITATION

Water supply

1. Repair curbing and cover of well. Mound clay about the curbing to divert waste water. Provide a trough to carry waste water away. Fill in holes or depressions with earth around the well.
2. Repair, pack and grease pump.
3. Where pumps are not used, provide rack to hang bucket and chain or rope when not in use.
4. If spring is used, provide a cover and ditch around the spring basin to divert surface water.
5. If cistern is used, repair and clean spouting and filter, repair cistern to keep out insects, animals and surface water.
6. Put up windmill.
7. Build shower bath and drain.
8. Build stockwater tanks.

Waste disposal

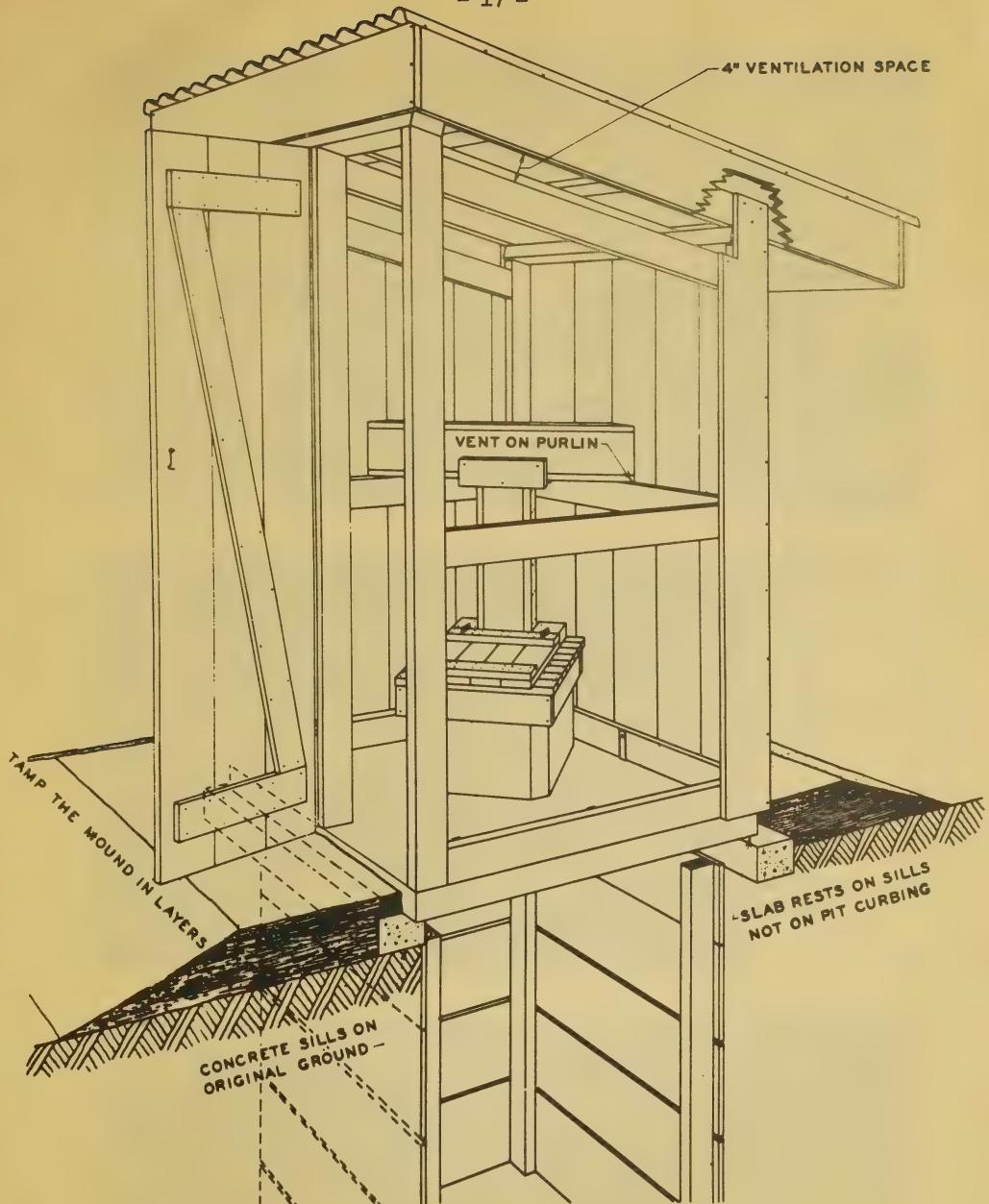
1. Provide leaching pit for waste water disposal.
2. Build kitchen sink or similar receptacle for waste water.
3. Repair privy seat, doors, lids, etc. Mound clay around floor to divert water away from pit.
4. Dig pit for new privy and build new one.
5. Provide can with tight cover for kitchen slops or garbage. Build rack to hold such cans so that animals will not be able to get into them.

FOR ADDED INCOME

Better living

1. Raise pigs for subsistence.
2. Build shelter for stock.
3. Increase size and quality of poultry flock and take proper care of chickens — food — housing — cleanliness.
4. Cut year's supply of wood.
5. Dig year's supply of coal.

4" VENTILATION SPACE



SANITARY PIT PRIVY
Illustration: Courtesy of U. S. Public Health Service.

Added Cash

1. Weave rugs, blankets, scarfs, table cloths, neckties, bags, curtains, etc.
2. Carve buttons, small figures, bracelets, letter-holders, book-ends, napkin rings, small trays, etc.
3. Install bee-hives.
4. Sell butter, eggs, chickens, preserves, etc.
5. Make baskets, brooms, luncheon mats, etc.

FOR SAFETY

Around the house, fix:

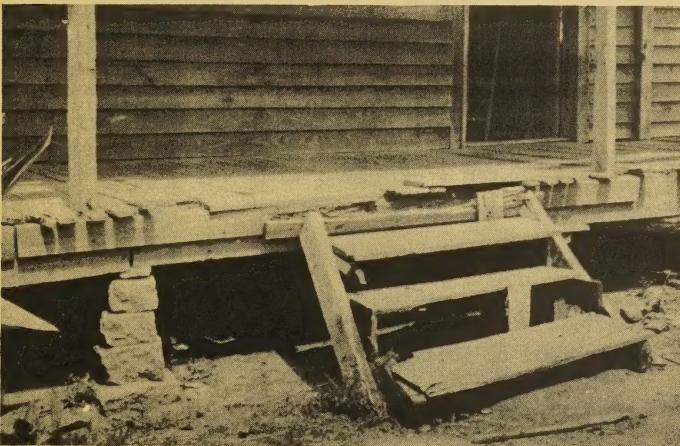
1. Rickety guard-rail on porch.
2. Decayed boards in walks and steps.
3. Rickety chairs,
4. Cracks in chimney.
5. Cracks in stove or oil stove leak.
6. Projections which result in tripping.
7. Walls, ceilings and partitions too near stove.
8. Broken glass.

Around the farm, fix:

1. Weak harness, hoisting equipment, and the like.
2. Unguarded gears, shafts, belts on farm machinery.
3. Holes in haymow floor.
4. Dangerous fences.
5. Insecure scaffold.



Work grants can be earned by making chair bottoms either for the home or for sale.



Safety is important around the farm home. Shown are steps badly in need of repair and a machine shed which could be rebuilt or repaired through a work grant.



B I B L I O G R A P H Y

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MAKING COTTON OR MOSS MATTRESSES ON LOUISIANA FARMS	184
By Mary Louise Collings Home Management Specialist Agricultural Extension Service Agricultural and Mechanical College Louisiana State University University, Louisiana	
MATTRESS MAKING ON THE FARM	C-105
By Mrs. Bernice Claytor Extension Specialist in Home Improvement Agricultural Extension Service Agricultural and Mechanical College of Texas College Station, Texas	

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